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REMARKS

In the office action, the examiner indicated that the amendment in Claim 2 made in the response to the previous office action does not place the application in condition for allowance because the invention is unpatentable over Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 3,454,404) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Accordingly, the applicant has further amended Claim 2 to more clearly differentiate the present invention from the technology disclosed by the cited Watanabe reference. In addition to the steam, Watanabe utilizes chemical agents such as alkali salts during the manufacturing process. In contrast, the process of the present invention utilizes only the water vapor. This difference is clarified by amending Claim 2 in a closed end format.

The applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated:

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